



# Program Dispatch

First Edition, Fiscal Year 2010-2011



## Children and Family Support Services

**Mental Health Services Act Dollars  
Working in the Community!**

### Service Goals

- **Provide culturally sensitive/competent**, family-centered, strength-based and needs-driven services to children and families who are underserved with complex mental health, behavioral or co-occurring needs in a family setting
- **Decrease psychiatric hospitalizations** and prevent a higher level of mandated care
- **Assist with community supportive services**
- **Service coordination** consisting of respite options, 24/7 crisis phone and mobile crisis intervention services in cooperation with established community crisis centers as well as immediate issues over the phone
- **Improve stability** in the home
- **Provide outpatient services** as appropriate to the treatment needs and service goals of the child and family
- **Improve school advocacy**, promotion and attendance by reducing expulsions, arrests, substance abuse and emergency interventions

## Why was Comprehensive Children and Family Support Services (CCFSS) Created?

SB 163 Wraparound, one of the programs within CCFSS, had proven to be an effective means by which youth who are wards of the court and dependents could be helped by avoiding unnecessary out of home placement or loss of a current placement. Additionally, assistance was provided to help set and accomplish age-appropriate goals and develop constructive relationships within their family and community.

- Children and youth were identified as needing a wraparound style of intervention; however, they did not qualify for the other programs, their needs went unmet, and often the situation worsened.
- Success First/Early Wrap was created to facilitate the success of children and youth without preventing difficulties or issues arising to the level that more acute services were needed.
- The intensive service culture needed to be applied to youth in high levels of placement through the Residential program options.
- A Wraparound program was needed to incorporate the programs listed above, providing a continuum of services for children and youth.

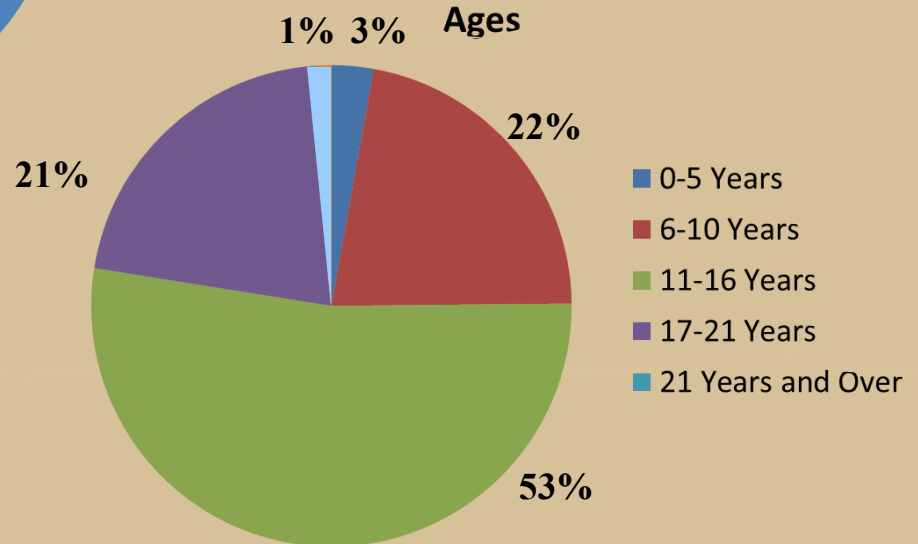
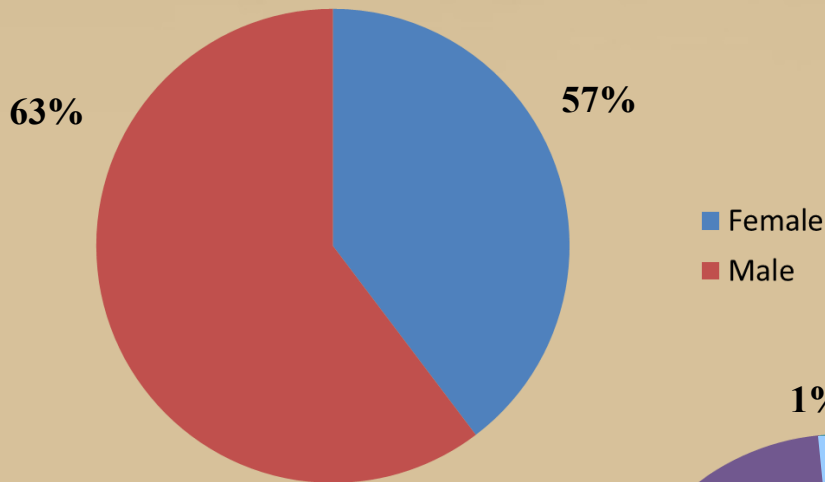


## Positive Results

- **Increased family and community support connections**
- **Decreased hospitalizations**
- **Decreased involvement** with law enforcement and the Juvenile Justice system
- **Increased services** to ethnic populations
- **Increased academic success and retention in school**
- **Decreased homelessness**
- **Increased** lower level **community supportive services**
- **Increased family independence** through increased informal community support
- **Reduced removal from family home**
- Provided **evidence-based treatment** that specifically address trauma symptoms, substance abuse, parent-child relational difficulties and attachment disorders, oppositional defiance, mood disorders, disorders of infancy and early childhood and parenting skills deficits
- **70% of children/youth** in Success First/Early Wrap reach their goals by the end of service

## Program Data

Gender Breakdown



## Making A Difference

A 16-year-old girl in a Court-ordered out-of-home placement was enrolled in Residential Based Services (RBS) Program eleven months ago. She had been allowed to move back to the County of San Bernardino from another high level placement. Suffering from a mood disorder, she was frequently suicidal, cut herself and exploded upon others. For these reasons, she was hospitalized multiple times. As a result of her hard work in Residentially Based Services, she is no longer acting out, is not exploding at others, is not cutting herself, is now doing well in school and has moved into a foster home. RBS efforts have resulted in her being connected to six significant family members (e.g., mom, etc.), when she had previously been involved with only one extended family member. RBS staff will continue to work with her as she lives in the foster home so that she can maintain her gains, obtain more family involvement and be ready for a successful launch into adulthood.



## Challenges

- Sudden suspension of the AB3632 program created issues to accessing services
- Youth were enrolled in SB 163 programs through the AB 3632 services that were suspended
  - As a result the school districts indicated that this service is not required under the Federal Individuals with Disability Education Act
- Child Psychiatrists are a severely limited resource in the County of San Bernardino
- Children and youth without insurance, and not eligible for Medi-Cal, have very limited options for aftercare
- The limitation of natural resources accessible to single parent families without extended familial support and who are functioning below poverty pose exceptional challenges
- Some family participation appears to be more motivated by avoiding other consequences (e.g., placement), this results in less robust disclosure of family issues (e.g., alcoholism, domestic violence, etc.). These unknown obstacles create multiple difficulties for service providers.
- Accessing appropriate community resources for youth in Residentially Based Services is highly difficult due to complications of supervision requirements when parents or foster parents are not highly involved.



## Solutions in Progress

- Use of Success First/Early Wraparound programs to meet the immediate needs of children and youth who were enrolled in SB 163 Wraparound under AB 3632
- Expanded the array of services provided by Wraparound programs to include Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) (i.e., one-to-one behavioral coaching)
- Consistent on-site training and campaigning regarding eligibility criteria, referral processes and hands-on support for making referrals to the Comprehensive Children and Family Support Services program
- Participation with Children & Family Services at Team Decision Making meetings to ensure consistent information about eligibility criteria and referral processes

### Collaborative Partners

**Thank you to our partners!**

**County of San Bernardino  
Children & Family Services**

**County of San Bernardino  
Probation**

**Department of Behavioral  
Health Transition Age Youth  
Centers**

**School Attendance Review  
Boards**

**School Districts**

**San Bernardino County  
First Five**

**Local Communities**

**First/Early Wraparound &  
SB 163 Programs**

**For information regarding services please call:**

**ACCESS UNIT**

**(888) 743-1478 or (888) 743-1481 (TTY)**

Dial 2-1-1 to get information and referrals for health and social services.  
Get connected with a live operator 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.